

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

DOT-00 (ISO) W

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R 281727Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2543

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 3991

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ML, PR, CA

SUBJ: MALI SNUBS CANADIANS

1. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL AND MALI, ANDRE COUVRETTE, (RESIDENT IN DAKAR) CAME TO BAMAKO TO SIGN TWO ADDITIONAL AID AGREEMENTS W/GOM OCT. 23. RAMOND LESSARD, HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN BAMAKO, TOLD DCM THAT HIS AMBASSADOR WAS UNABLE TO SEE ANYBODY IN MALIAN GOVT. EXCEPT ALIDOU TOURE, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MFA. CANADIANS WERE FURIOUS, AND TOLD TOURE THAT IF THIS EXAMPLE OF GROSS DISCOURTESY REFLECTED MALIAN VIEW OF ITS RELATIONS WITH CANADA, CANADIANS WOULD PUT THEIR AID FUNDS TO BETTER USE ELSEWHERE.

2. AGREEMENTS SIGNED WERE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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AND EDUCATION AND AMOUNTED TO ABOUT \$2 MILLION.

CANADIANS HAVE EARMARKED, HOWEVER, TOTAL OF \$30 MILLION FOR MALI, MOST OF WHICH IS TO GO FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION--RAIL, RIVER, AND ROAD. IT IS THIS SUM THAT THE CANADIANS THREATENED TO TAKE ELSEWHERE.

3. IN ADDITION, MALIAN OFFICIALDOM BOYCOTTED CANADIAN RECEPTION HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR COUVRETTE THAT EVENING. LESSARD SAID CANADIANS FELT HUMILITATED.

4. IN DISCUSSION OF WHAT OTHER AID DONORS COULD PROVIDE MALI, LESSARD SAID FRENCH WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE THEIR AID SINCE THEY WERE INTERESTED IN IRON ORE DEPOSITS AND OTHER MINERALS. LESSARD SAID THAT CANADIAN GEOLOGIST HAD RECENTLY LOOKED OVER A SITE THE FRENCH HAD SURVEYED. HE ESTIMATED RESERVES OF IRON ORE AT 100 MILLION TONS. LESSARD WAS RELUCTANT TO PINPOINT EXACT LOCATION BUT SAID IT WAS ABOUT 600 KILOMETERS FROM RAILROAD.

5. COMMENT: A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION OF THIS PUZZLING BEHAVIOR BY GOM OFFICIALS IS VISIT TO BAMAKO OF CHEDLY AYARI, PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB BANK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (BANQUE ARABE POUR LA DEVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE EN AFRIQUE (BADEA)), WHO MET OCTOBER 22 WITH PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL DAILY L'ESSOR, AYARI EXPLAINED TO TRAORE THE BANK'S OBJECTIVES AND OFFERED TO UNDERTAKE A SYSTEMATIC EVALUATION OF PROJECTS RELATIVE TO MALI'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS . THE BANK WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO ACT DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1976. DESPITE RED-CARPET TREATMENT ACCORDED AYARI, THIS DOES NOT EXPLAIN MALIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD CANADIANS ONE DAY LATER.

WHILE WE DO NOT SEE REBUFF TO CANADIANS AS PART OF COORDINATED GOM PLAN TO SWING LEFT, NONETHELESS IT IS DISQUIETING SINCE MALIANS HAD VOTED AGAINST US ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE IN AUGUST, AND WIFE OF PRESIDENT IS NOW VISITING CHINA AND NORTH KOREA. PERHAPS MALIANS SEE SOLUTION TO THEIR PRESSING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN
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GREATER AID FROM SOVIETS AND CHINESE WHICH, OF COURSE, WOULD BE TIED TO A SWING LEFT IN MALIAN FOREIGN POLICY.
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